

GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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To our friends and members
throughout the community, state, and across all borders:
"Thank you for your support!"



SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

November 2, 2017

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1. **September ends by prepping for Railroad Days** - Our Railroad Days celebrates the era of steam trains that puffed through town beginning in 1892 when the Everett and Monte Cristo Railroad reached the town. By the next year the tracks reached the gold mining town of Monte Cristo. Gold mining lasted only a decade but logging trains were a familiar sight for many more years, along with passenger trains that brought tourists from Seattle and Everett to the famous Big Four Inn resort in the



The Tin Box Time Capsule buried in the 1910 foundation recovered in 1965

shadow of Big Four Mountain. Today, only the resort's stone fireplace remains, standing like a sentinel at the entrance to the trails to the Big Four ice caves. Railroad Days, a 52-year-old event held the first Saturday in October, was started to commemorate Granite Falls' history and the great railroads which once brought ore, precious metals and timber through our mining and lumber town. The event combines with reunions at Granite Falls High School, bringing back past alumni to meet old

friends and renew past acquaintances. It was started 52 years ago by Richard Farris, one of the high school's teachers, and has been a community highlight ever since.

2. **Community Foundation of Snohomish County** - On September 4th, Maddy Metzger of the Community Foundation of Snohomish County (CFSC) held a meeting in the museum conference room to review the mission of

the CFSC and to determine if there were any additional opportunities for CFSC to offer help in the Granite Falls area. Representatives of the Pilchuck Foundation, the City of Granite Falls, the Community Coalition, and the GF School District were present. The conclusion was that the city would set up a meeting in the Fall, inviting all three local Food Bank organizations, to see what specific plans can be made to encourage some cooperation and coordination. The existing Food Bank will be moving its operation, hopefully to the property purchased by the City on which the church on Galena St is located.

3. **The "one spot" offer** - On September 7th, the City of Granite Falls offered \$110K for the "one spot" property, with a contingency that the illegal fence on the western portion be removed. We received a message from the seller that two offers were submitted, one for \$110K and one for \$50K, and that a decision would be made. The seller countered with a \$100K counter-offer, if the contingency were removed. The sale was accepted, and closing should occur in early October. The issue of the fence (sewer/water access, etc.) will be resolved by the City.

4. **New museum computers** - On September 14th, the two new PCs purchased in large part with a grant from the Historical Preservation Commission, were delivered. They have both been configured with PastPerfect museum software, Microsoft Office, and our mapping tools. Their speed and memory capacity are tremendous improvements over our existing PCs (the newest one of which is seven years old). They are able to process the large files of the mapping system with much greater speed, making historical research flow more creatively.

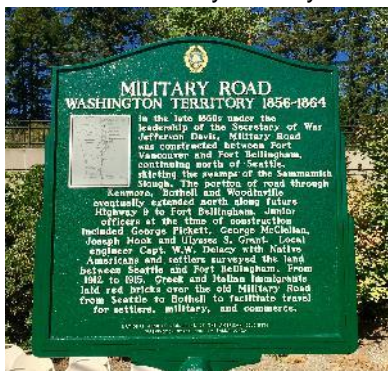
5. **County Historical Grants discussions** - The Snohomish County Historical Preservation Commission met on September 19, to discuss modifications to the grant guidelines for the annually-provided Community Heritage Grants. The overall grant budget for 2018 was doubled, the "matching" requirements eased, and the establishment of a "large grant" application was approved, whereby an applicant can apply for up to \$50K. The newly-approved guidelines will be published shortly, so grant applications can be submitted and approved in time for early 2018 project starts.

6. **GFHS 2017 grant request expenses** - On September 24th, the final expenses for the 2017 Snohomish County Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) Community Heritage grant-funded project were compiled, along with a short summary of the reimbursement to be requested. There were two parts to the grant request: (1) travel and expenses associated with two people (Tom and Fred) attending the ESRI User Conference in San Diego to both

deliver a paper and get trained on new mapping tools & techniques; (2) the purchase of two PCs and associated hardware/software to create a new set of mapping tools that could be shared online (see online maps [example #1](#) and [example #2](#)). With the 2017 grant reimbursement and the generous assistance from LOSCHO, GFHS is left with a doable expense to pay for the conference, training, and PC equipment. By studying the market for quality equipment and waiting for a good sale, plus a little extra discount from HP, plus the HPC grant and the LOSCHO assistance, GFHS carefully expended the necessary funds to maximize this great opportunity.

7. Small Town Papers is going "Big Time" - We have been contacted by Paul Jeffko, founder and CEO of Small Town Papers (STP) regarding their current advancements with helping small organizations like our museum. STP is the outfit that scanned our newspapers a few years back and ran Optical Character Recognition (OCR) on them so they are searchable. Without OCR, a person would have to "flip" through the pages on the computer screen just like a person would have to flip through a stack of original paper copies. Digitizing newspapers is important because the paper can eventually deteriorate due to use, temperature/humidity, and exposure to light. With OCR, the newspapers can be searched specifically for a name or any other word(s) when looking up any information, just like with Google or other online search engine. This is in the early stages of development, and has great potential for GFHS and other small museums in Snohomish County. We are excited to be part of STP pre-Beta testing of their new software, currently noted as "Archive in a Box".

8. Historical Marker Dedication by the DAC - On Friday, September 15, Tom witnessed the dedication of a historical marker at the Red Brick Road Park in Bothell by the Washington by State Daughters of the American Colonists (DAC). This marker commemorates the Seattle to Bothell part of the Military Highway constructed in the Washington Territory during 1856-1864 from Fort Vancouver to Fort Bellingham, which also traversed Snohomish County. Maralyn Ricketts, the current DAC



Regent for the State of Washington, also invited Tom to their annual dinner and program on DAC-placed historical markers in Washington State, which includes the marker at the Mukilteo Lighthouse that Tom's mother place about 18 years ago.

Also attending was Peter Condyles, a board member from the Marysville Historical Society.

9. Our first Granite Falls visitors from Granite Falls, MN - On September 10, we had our first visitors from Granite Falls, Minnesota. Keith and Kay Zempel were on vacation in the Washington/Oregon area and knew they needed to stop by and visit our town. When they saw the museum

signs out, they immediately stopped by the museum to find out more of our area and how it compares to Granite Falls, MN. They don't have hills with 200'-tall evergreens nearby, nor a 5300' mountain just a few miles away. It was an interesting conversation, as their town and ours are rural and about the same size.



10. Welcome totes - On September 15, Tom delivered 50 museum pamphlets and 50 museum business cards to Michelle Callahan, Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce. This info from the museum will be included in welcome totes for the expected influx of new residents based on the construction by Quarry Road near the high school.

11. 2017 AASLH Online Conference - On Thursday and Friday, September 7 - 8, the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) had three, 60-minute sessions per day (6 total) during their annual conference held in Austin, Texas. Tom and Fred signed up and, between the two of them, were able to view all sessions. The recordings are available to the online participants for review until March, 2018. The League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations sponsored the sessions.

12. Distinguished Service Award - All the names for 2017 have finally been revealed. Congratulations are in order for Norma Anderson, Thora Boede, and Tom Thorleifson for their many contributions to the Granite Falls Historical Society.

13. Docents, helpers, and visitors for September - We are very appreciative of the volunteers and docents who helped in various ways throughout September. Without intending to leave anyone out, here is our September list: Dee Saunders, Marcia Day, Tom Bergan, Fred Cruger, Tom Thorleifson, Ron Chew, Catherine Anderson, Scott Bower, Bob Ingraham, Robin Ingraham, Rosie Miller, Norma Anderson, John and Barbara Scherrer, and Eldon and Elsie Kirstein. There were 93 people at the museum this month who came from these places: Bellevue, Arlington, Granite Falls, Lake Stevens, Marysville, Mukilteo; Granite Falls, MN; and Chillawack, B.C.

14. Find out more - To see what goes to the local press and online newspapers, you can visit these online sites:

["Back in the Day"](#) – recent stories about GF history.
[GFHS Newsletter archive](#) – view previous newsletters.
[GFHS Calendar of Events](#) – recent and coming events.

Our Museum is always open Sundays noon to 5:00 pm, even if the Seahawks are playing. You can sign up as a docent with Marcia Day by calling (360) 691-2378 or emailing her: marciad@irgpt.com and on-the-job training is available for those with little or no experience. Try it!